## 2011 DRAFTING REQUEST

Bill

Received:	01/23/2012
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Received By: jkuesel

Wanted: As time permits

Companion to LRB:

For: Workforce Development 7-1406

By/Representing: him

May Contact:

Subject:

**Unemployment Insurance** 

Drafter: jkuesel

Addl. Drafters:

Extra Copies:

Submit via email: YES

Requester's email:

Daniel.LaRocque@dwd.wisconsin.gov

Carbon copy (CC:) to:

connie.schulze@dwd.wisconsin.gov andrea.reid@dwd.wisconsin.gov craig.barkelar@dwd.wisconsin.gov

**Pre Topic:** 

No specific pre topic given

**Topic:** 

Availability for work; temporary appeals judges; program integrity

**Instructions:** 

Per attached E mail, 1/22/12.

**Drafting History:** 

Vers.	Drafted	Reviewed	Typed	Proofed	Submitted	Jacketed	Required
/?	jkuesel 01/27/2012	csicilia 01/30/2012					State
/1			jfrantze 01/30/2012		mbarman 01/30/2012		State
/2	jkuesel 01/30/2012	csicilia 01/31/2012	rschluet 01/31/2012	-	mbarman 01/31/2012	mbarman 01/31/2012	

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## 2011 DRAFTING REQUEST

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Received: 01/23/2012				Received By: jkuesel				
Wanted: As time permits  For: Workforce Development 7-1406					Companion to LRB:  By/Representing: him			
Addl. Drafters:								
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Submi	t via email: YES	<b>,</b>						
Reques	ster's email:	Daniel.La	Rocque@d	wd.wisconsin	.gov			
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FE Sent For:

## 2011 DRAFTING REQUEST

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Received: 01/23/2012				Received By: jkuesel					
Wanted: As time permits					Companion to LRB:				
For: W	orkforce Devel	opment 7-140	6		By/Representing: him				
May Contact:					Drafter: jkuesel				
Subject: Unemployment Insurance					Addl. Drafters:				
					Extra Copies:				
Submit	via email: YES								
Reques	ter's email:	Daniel.La	Rocque@d	wd.wisconsin	.gov				
Carbon	copy (CC:) to:	andrea.rei	d@dwd.wi	.wisconsin.go sconsin.gov .wisconsin.go					
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FE Sent For:

Received By: jkuesel

## 2011 DRAFTING REQUEST

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Received: 01/23/2012

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Request	er's email:	Daniel.Lal	Rocque@dv	vd.wisconsin	.gov		
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## 2011 DRAFTING REQUEST

Bill

Received: 01/23/2012

Received By: jkuesel

Wanted: As time permits

Companion to LRB:

For: Workforce Development 7-1406

By/Representing: him

May Contact:

Subject:

**Unemployment Insurance** 

Drafter: jkuesel

Addl. Drafters:

Extra Copies:

Submit via email: YES

Requester's email:

Daniel.LaRocque@dwd.wisconsin.gov

Carbon copy (CC:) to:

Pre Topic:

No specific pre topic given

Topic:

Availability for work; temporary appeals judges; program integrity

**Instructions:** 

Per attached E mail, 1/22/12.

**Drafting History:** 

Vers.

Drafted

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Typed Proofed

**Submitted** 

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Required

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FE Sent For:

## Kuesel, Jefferv

From:

LaRocque, Daniel J - DWD [Daniel.LaRocque@dwd.wisconsin.gov]

Sent:

Monday, January 23, 2012 12:12 PM

To:

Kuesel, Jeffery

Cc:

Barkelar, Craig D - DWD; Schulze, Connie R - DWD; Maxwell, Georgia E - DWD

Subject:

FW: Moving forward with advisory council approved items

Importance:

High

Attachments:

Council agreed bill provisions Jan 12 2012 012312.doc; approved changes to ch 108.pdf;

approved changes to ch 108 pdf

Jeff:

As you can see below, I am told that the department, after consultation with the Labor chairs, has decided that the 3 department proposals for UI law change (that the Council voted on Jan 12) should be a separate bill - not attached to the pending 2011 agreed bill. The 3 proposals are as you and I discussed recently and are described in the attachment below that given to the Council and was the basis for the Council's vote on January 12.

I am also attaching a document that contains our attempt to draft the three proposals. That draft is written to create the fraud penalty fund and appropriation for program integrity, which were also part of the Council's September 22 2011 resolution. While I cannot say we are entirely settled on the details of the draft, I think it is a substantial step in the intended direction.

Finally, I have been asked to inquire of LRB as to what is the last date on which we could timely submit draft language for the proposal that the Council agreed upon in September 2011 to authorize bonding to finance repayment of the federal loans to the Reserve Fund. Perhaps that is an area that others in your agency will have to respond to. It is my understanding the DOA's bond counsel are working at this moment to complete draft bill language for this proposal.

#### Dan





Council agreed

approved bill provisions... anges to ch 108.pc

From:

Schulze, Connie R - DWD

Sent:

Monday, January 23, 2012 10:10 AM

To:

Barkelar, Craig D - DWD

Cc: Subject: Maxwell, Georgia E - DWD; Williams, Vincent - LEGIS; Kelly, Scott - LEGIS

Importance:

FW: Moving forward with advisory council approved items High

Hi Craig.

Please have this drafted as a stand alone bill. I will deliver the companion bills to the labor chairs once it is jacketed. Thank you.

Sincerely,

## Connie Schulze

Legislative Liaison

Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development

201 E. Washington Avenue, A400

Madison, WI 53703

Ph: 608/266-1756 Fax: 608/266-1784 connie.schulze@dwd.wisconsin.gov

From:

Barkelar, Craig D - DWD

Sent:

Friday, January 20, 2012 8:07 AM

To:

Maxwell, Georgia E - DWD; Schulze, Connie R - DWD

Cc:

LaRocque, Daniel J - DWD

Subject:

Moving forward with advisory council approved items

Importance:

#### Good morning,

Three small items were approved by the advisory council at its last meeting. I have attached a summary of them.



approved anges to ch 108.pc

#### Thanks!

## **Craig Barkelar**

Administrator, Division of Unemployment Insurance Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development 201 East Washington Avenue, Room E300 Madison, WI 53703 Phone: (608) 266-8533 / Fax: (608) 266-0593

Craig.Barkelar@dwd.wisconsin.gov

## Wisconsin is Open for Business!

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## TIGHTEN REQUIREMENT OF AVAILABILITY FOR WORK

## 1. <u>Create s. 108.04(2)(ae)</u>:

A claimant is not available for work under par. (a) in any week in which he or she is located outside of the United States, as defined in s. 108.02(15)(do)2, or Canada for more than 48 hours unless the claimant has authorization to work in that country and there is a reciprocal agreement concerning the payment of unemployment benefits between that country and the United States.

#### 2. Initial applicability:

The treatment of s. 108.04(2)(ae) of the statutes first applies with respect to weeks of unemployment beginning on the effective date of this subsection.

## 3. Description of Amendment:

The proposal assures a limit on eligibility for benefits when a claimant leaves the country for more than a brief period (48-hours, which is the general standard in the law for brief departures from the individual's labor market.) The proposal codifies current department practice.

# REMOVE LIMITS ON DEPARTMENT'S HIRING OF TEMPORARY APPEALS JUDGES

## 1. Amend s. 108.09 (3)(a)2:

108.09(3)(a)2. The department may appoint an individual who is not a permanent employee of the department to serve as a temporary reserve appeal tribunal if the individual formerly served as an appeal tribunal while employed by the department and retired from state service as a permanent employee. An individual who is appointed to serve as a temporary reserve appeal tribunal shall be an attorney who is licensed to practice in this state.

## 2. Initial applicability

The treatment of s. 108.09(3)(a)2 first applies on the effective date of the act.

## 3. Description of Amendment:

Current law has prequalification requirements that an attorney must satisfy for DWD to appoint an attorney to serve as a temporary administrative law judge to hear appeals in unemployment insurance cases. Amendment removes two of these prequalification requirements. The two prequalification requirements removed would be that:

- (1) The attorney must have previously served as an administrative law judge who heard appeals in unemployment insurance cases; and,
- (2) The attorney must have retired from state service as a permanent employee.

# CREATION OF 15% PENALTY FOR FRAUD AND PROGRAM INTEGRITY FUND WITH INSTRUCTIONS FOR DEPOSIT OF PENALTY MONEYS TO CONFORM TO UPCOMING FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

#### 1. Create s. 20.445 (1) (v):

20.445 (1) (v) Unemployment program integrity. From the unemployment program integrity fund, a sum sufficient to make the payments authorized under s. 108.19 (1s).

## 2. Create s. 25.17 (1)(xf):

25.17 (1) (xf) Unemployment program integrity fund (s. 108.19 (1s));

## 3. Create s. 108.04 (11)(bh):

In addition to ineligibility for benefits resulting from concealment as provided in par. (be), the department shall assess a penalty against the claimant in an amount equal to 15 percent of the benefit payments erroneously paid to the claimant as a result of one or more acts of concealment described in pars. (a) and (b).

#### 4. Amend s. 108.09 (2)(b):

The department shall issue determinations whenever necessary to resolve any matters which may bar, suspend, terminate or otherwise affect the employee's eligibility for benefits or to resolve any liability for penalties under s. 108.04 (11) (bh).

## 5. Amend s. 108.09 (8)(b):

Any party in a dispute concerning benefit eligibility or liability for overpayment of benefits or a penalty imposed under s. 108.04 (11) (bh), or in any administrative proceeding under this chapter concerning such a dispute, may be represented by counsel or another agent; but no such counsel or agent may together charge or receive from an employee for all such representation in connection with such a dispute a fee which, in the aggregate, exceeds 10% of the maximum benefits at issue unless the department has first approved a specified higher fee. This paragraph does not apply to any fee charged for representation before a court of law.

## 6. <u>Create s. 108.16 (6)(n)</u>:

On or after October 21, 2013, any penalty collected pursuant to s. 108.04 (11) (bh).

## 7. <u>Create s. 108.19 (1s)</u>:

(a) There is created a separate, nonlapsible trust fund designated as the unemployment program integrity fund. The unemployment program integrity fund shall consist of all moneys collected under s. 108.04 (11) (bh) prior to October 21, 2013 and any other moneys designated by the department)

(b) The department shall use the moneys in the unemployment program integrity fund for payment of costs associated with program integrity activities.

## 8. Create s. 108.22 (8)(bh):

To recover any penalty under s. 108.04 (11) (bh), the department may recoup the amount of the penalty by filing a warrant against the liable individual in the same manner as is provided in this section for collecting delinquent payments from employers.

## 9. Amend s. 108.225 (1)(b):

"Debt" means a delinquent contribution or repayment of a benefit overpayment, an assessment under s. 108.04 (11) (cm), a liability incurred under s. 108.04 (11) (bh), or any liability of a 3rd party for failure to surrender to the department property or rights to property subject to levy after proceedings under sub. (4) (b) and s. 108.10 to determine that liability.

## 10. <u>Amend s. 108.225 (16)(am)1 (intro)</u>:

In the case of benefit overpayments <u>or a penalty imposed under s. 108.04 (11) (bh)</u>, an individual debtor is entitled to an exemption from levy of 80% of the debtor's disposable earnings, except that:

## 11. Amend s. 108.225 (17):

The first \$1,000 of an account in a depository institution is exempt from any levy to recover a benefit overpayment or a penalty imposed under s. 108.04 (11) (bh). No other property is exempt from levy except as provided in sub. (16).

## 12. Amend s. 108.24 (1):

Any person who knowingly makes a false statement or representation to obtain any benefit payment under this chapter, either for himself or herself or for any other person, shall be fined not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 or imprisoned not more than 90 days, or both; and each such false statement or representation constitutes a separate offense. This penalty is in addition to any penalty imposed under s. 108.04 (11) (bh).

## 13. Initial applicability

The treatment of sections 20.445 (1) (v), 25.17 (1) (xf), 108.04 (11) (bh), 108.09 (2) (b), and (8) (b), 108.16(6)(n), 108.19 (1s), 108.22 (8) (bh), 108.225 (1) (b) (with respect to liabilities incurred under section 108.04 (11) (bh) of the statutes), (16) (am) 1. (intro.), and (17) and 108.24 (1) of the statutes first applies with respect to weeks of employment beginning with the first Sunday that follows the 180th day beginning after the effective date of this subsection.

## 14. Description of Amendment

The amendment provides that a claimant who is found guilty of fraud is subject to a penalty equal to 15 percent of the benefit payments erroneously paid to the claimant. The funds collected will be placed in a newly created program integrity fund until October 21, 2013.

By October 21, 2013, as a condition of receiving Wisconsin's federal grant to administer its unemployment compensation law, Wisconsin must assess at least a 15 percent penalty on any fraudulent overpayment. Unemployment Insurance Program Letter No. 02-12 provides that the notices advising claimants of these penalties must include, along with the claimant's appeal rights, the penalty amount and an explanation of the reason for the overpayment and the reason the penalty has been applied.

As of October 21, 2013, this 15 percent penalty must be immediately deposited into Wisconsin's unemployment trust fund. The federal legislation allows that if a state assesses a greater amount than 15 percent it may deposit the collected amount beyond the 15 percent into another fund.

## **AUTHORITY OF APPEAL TRIBUNALS**

## 1. Amend s. 108.09(3)(b)

The Consistently with applicable state and federal law, the appeal tribunal may affirm, reverse or modify the initial determination of the department or set aside the determination and remand the matter to the department for further proceedings, or may remand to the department for consideration of any issue not previously investigated by the department.

## 2. Initial Applicability

The treatment of s. 108.09(3)(b) first applies on the effective date of the act.

## 3. Description of Amendment

Currently, DWD is directed by law to appoint appeal tribunals to administratively hear and decide disputed UI claims and other matters arising under the UI law. This amendment provides that the actions of appeal tribunals must be consistent with applicable state and federal law, and codifies current department practice.

## INTEREST ON DELINQUENT PAYMENTS

## 1. Amend s. 108.22(1)(a):

108.22 (1) (a) If any employer, other than an employer which has ceased business and has not paid or incurred a liability to pay wages in any quarter following the cessation of business, is delinquent in making by the assigned due date any payment to the department required of it under this chapter, the employer shall pay interest on the delinquent payment at the rate of one percent per that monthly rate that annualized is equal to 2 percent more than the prime rate as published in the Wall Street Journal as of September 30 of the preceding year for each month or fraction thereof that the employer is delinquent from the date such payment became due. If any such employer is delinquent in making any quarterly report under s.108.205 (1) by the assigned due date, the employer shall pay a tardy filing fee of \$50 due.

## 2. Initial applicability:

The treatment of section 108.22 (1) (a) of the statutes first applies with respect to interest charged on liabilities 90 days after the effective date of this subsection.

## 3. Description of amendment:

Currently, if an employer does not make a payment required under the UI law to DWD by the due date, the employer must pay interest on the amount owed equal to one percent per month or fraction thereof from the date that the payment became due. This bill changes the interest rate on delinquent payments to that monthly rate that annaualized is equal to 2 percent more than the prime rate as published in the Wall Street Journal as of September 30 of the preceding year for each month or fraction thereof that the employer is delinquent.

## **DWD Proposals for Change to the Unemployment Statutes**

#### 1. Tighten requirement of availability for work

Create s.108.04(2)(ae):

A claimant is not available for work under par. (a) in any week in which he or she is located outside of the United States, as defined in s. 108.02(15)(do)2, or Canada for more than 48 hours unless the claimant has authorization to work in that country and there is a reciprocal agreement concerning the payment of unemployment benefits between that country and the United States.

Comment: The Labor and Industry Review Commission recently rejected the department's treatment of the availability requirement when an individual is outside the country. This proposal assures a limit on eligibility for benefits when a claimant leaves the country for more than a brief period (48-hours, which is the general standard in the law for brief departures from the individual's labor market).

## 2 Remove limits on department's hiring of temporary appeals judges

Amend s.108.09 (3) (a) 2. to read:

2. The department may appoint an individual who is not a permanent employee of the department to serve as a temporary reserve appeal tribunal if the individual formerly served as an appeal tribunal while employed by the department and retired from state service as a permanent employee. An individual who is appointed to serve as a temporary reserve appeal tribunal shall be an attorney who is licensed to practice in this state.

Comment: "Appeal tribunal" means unemployment administrative law judge. The change would permits the department to access not only the former UI ALJs but also the general market for attorneys and retired judges when seeking to fill temporary UI ALJ positions.

## 3. Conform to federal law requirements that the 15% penalty on fraudulent overpayments be paid into the Reserve Fund.

This proposal would simply assure that on and after October 21, 2013, a 15% penalty on fraudulent overpayment of benefits would flow to the Reserve Fund, as required by federal law.

#### Explanation:

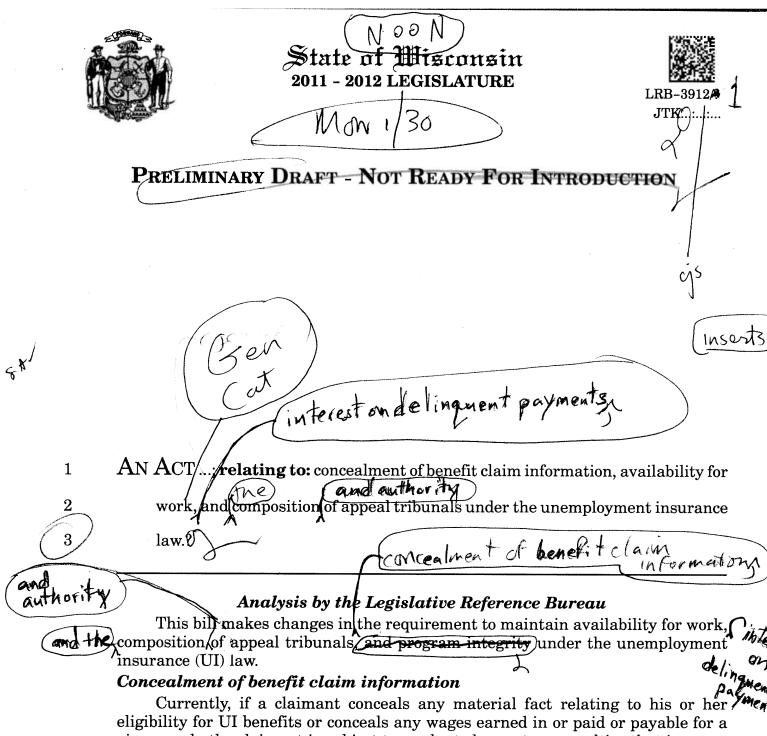
At its September 22, 2011 meeting the UI Advisory Council approved a legislative proposal to enact a 15% penalty on fraudulent overpayments. The proposal (contained in the Council's agreed bill, 2011 SB 219) also required that the proceeds of penalties paid be used *to fund program Integrity functions* for the unemployment program.

In November 2011, Congress legislated a requirement that the states legislate the 15% penalty on fraudulent overpayments – but altered the anticipated provision that the proceeds be used for program integrity functions. In stead of program integrity, the federal law requires that the penalty proceeds be *paid into the state's reserve fund.* 

Drafted by DWD UI Bureau of Legal Affairs for UI Advisory Council - Jan 10, 2012

As a result, SB-219 does not include the provisions required to fully conform the federal law.

States must legislate and conform to the federal requirements (15% penalty and proceeds to the reserve fund) by October 21, 2013. If the penalty is enacted in Wisconsin sooner than that date — as would occur by either this proposal or by SB-219 — this proposal, if enacted, would not only allow the penalty payments to be used for unemployment program integrity functions until October 21, 2013. This proposal would also assure that on and after that date, the penalties recovered would flow to the Reserve Fund, as required by federal law.



Currently, if a claimant conceals any material fact relating to his or her eligibility for UI benefits or conceals any wages earned in or paid or payable for a given week, the claimant is subject to graduated monetary penalties that increase in severity with the number of determinations of concealment by the claimant. In addition, if a claimant conceals any wages for a given week, the claimant is ineligible to receive any benefits for that week.

This bill provides instead that a claimant who conceals any material fact relating to his or her eligibility for UI benefits or conceals any wages is subject to a graduated forfeiture of benefit amounts equivalent to specified weeks of benefit eligibility that increases in severity with the number of determinations of concealment by the claimant. In addition, a claimant who is found guilty of concealment is subject to a penalty equal to 15 percent of the benefit payments erroneously paid to the claimant as a result of any acts of concealment. Under the bill, revenues collected from the penalties are deposited in the unemployment reserve fund, which is used to pay benefits.

## Availability for work

other

ther a country

Currently, with certain exceptions, a claimant is eligible for UI benefits for any week in which the claimant earns no wages only if the claimant is available for work during that week. This bill provides specifically that a claimant is not considered to be available for work in any week in which he or she is outside the United States or Canada for more than 48 hours unless the claimant has authorization to work in that country and there is a reciprocal agreement concerning the payment of benefits between that country and the United States. other

Composition of appeal tribunals

Currently, Be Department of Workforce Development DWD is directed by law to appoint appeal tribunals to administratively hear and decide disputed UI claims and other matters arising under the UI law. An individual who is appointed to serve as an appeal tribunal must be a permanent employee of DWD except that DWD may appoint a person to serve as a temporary appeal tribunal if the individual was formerly appointed to serve as a tribunal while employed by DWD and retired from state service as a permanent employee. This bill permits DWD to appoint any attorney who is licensed to practice in this state to serve as a temporary appeal tribunal.

(space) For further information see the state fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows: Sin a country other than

SECTION 1. 108.04 (2) (ae) of the statutes is created to read:

108.04 (2) (ae) A claimant is not a failable for work under par. (a) 1. in any week in which he or she is located outside of the United States, as defined in s. 108.02 (15) (do) 2., or Canada for more than 48 hours unless the claimant has authorization to work in that country and there is a reciprocal agreement concerning the payment of unemployment insurance benefits between that country and the United States.

**Section 2.** 108.04 (11) (bh) of the statutes is created to read:

108.04 (11) (bh) In addition to ineligibility for benefits resulting from concealment as provided in par. (be), the department shall assess a penalty against the claimant in an amount equal to 15 percent of the benefit payments erroneously

and

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paid to the claimant as a result of one or more acts of concealment described in pars. 1 (a) and (b).

**SECTION 3.** 108.09 (2) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

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108.09 (2) (b) The department shall issue determinations whenever necessary to resolve any matters which that may bar, suspend, terminate or otherwise affect the employee's eligibility for benefits or to resolve any liability for penalties under s. 108.04 (11) (bh).

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History: 1971 c. 147; 1973 c. 247; 1975 c. 343; 1977 c. 29, 418, 1979 c. 52, 221; 1981 c. 36; 1985 a. 17, 29; 1987 a. 38 ss. 81 to 86, 136; 1989 a. 56 s. 259; 1989 a. 77; 1991 89, 269; 1993 a. 373; 1995 a. 118; 1997 a. 35, 39; 1999 a. 15; 2001 a. 35; 2003 a. 197; 2005 a. 86, 253; 2007 a. 59; 2009 a. 287; 2011 a. 32.

SECTION 4. 108.09 (3) (a) 2. of the statutes is amended to read:

108.09 (3) (a) 2. The department may appoint an individual who is not a permanent employee of the department to serve as a temporary reserve appeal tribunal if the individual formerly served as an appeal tribunal while employed by the department and retired from state service as a permanent employee. An individual who is appointed to serve as a temporary reserve appeal tribunal shall be an attorney who is licensed to practice in this state.

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147: 1973 c. 247; 1975 c. 343; 1977 c. 29, 418; 1979 c. 52, 221; 1981 c. 36; 1985 a. 17, 29; 1987 a. 38 ss. 81 to 86, 136; 1989 a. 56 s. 259; 1989 a. 77; 1991 173; 1995 a. 118; 1997 a. 35, 39; 1999 a. 15; 2001 a. 35; 2003 a. 197; 2005 a. 86, 253; 2007 a. 59; 2009 a. 287; 2011 a. 32.

SECTION 5. 108.09 (8) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

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108.09 (8) (b) Any party in a dispute concerning benefit eligibility or liability for overpayment of benefits or a penalty imposed under s. 108.04 (11) (b), or in any administrative proceeding under this chapter concerning such a dispute, may be represented by counsel or another agent; but no such counsel or agent may together charge or receive from an employee for all such representation in connection with such a dispute a fee which, in the aggregate, exceeds 10% of the maximum benefits

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LRB-3912/? JTK...:...

SECTION 5

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at issue unless the department has first approved a specified higher fee. This paragraph does not apply to any fee charged for representation before a court of law.

-NS

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History: 1971 c. 147; 1973 

SECTION 6. 108.22 (8) (bh) of the statutes is created to read:

108.22 (8) (bh) To recover any penalty under s. 108.04 (11) (bh), the department may recoup the amount of the penalty by filing a warrant against a liable individual in the same manner as is provided in this section for collecting delinquent payments from employers.

**SECTION 7.** 108.225 (1) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

108.225 (1) (b) "Debt" means a delinquent contribution or repayment of a benefit overpayment, an assessment under s. 108.04 (11) (cm) or 108.19 (1m), a liability incurred under s. 108.04 (11) (bh), or any liability of a 3rd party for failure to surrender to the department property or rights to property subject to levy after proceedings under sub. (4) (b) and s. 108.10 to determine that liability.

History: 1989 a. 77; 1997 a. 187, 283; 2001 a. 35, 109; 2003 a. 197; 2005 a. 86, 442. 14

SECTION 8. 108.225 (16) (am) 1. (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

108.225 (16) (am) 1. (intro.) In the case of benefit overpayments or a penalty imposed under s. 108.04 (11) (bh), an individual debtor is entitled to an exemption from levy of 80% of the debtor's disposable earnings, except that:

History: 1989 a. 77; 1997 a. 187, 283; 2001 a. 35, 109; 2003 a. 197; 2005 a. 86, 442.

**Section 9.** 108.225 (17) of the statutes is amended to read:

108.225 (17) EXEMPTIONS. The first \$1,000 of an account in a depository institution is exempt from any levy to recover a benefit overpayment or penalty imposed under s. 108.04 (11) (bh). No other property is exempt from levy except as provided in sub. (16).

History: 1989 a. 77; 1997 a. 187, 283; 2001 a. 35, 109; 2003 a. 197; 2005 a. 86, 442.

**SECTION 10.** 108.24 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

1 108.24 (1) Any person who knowingly makes a false statement or 2 representation to obtain any benefit payment under this chapter, either for himself 3 or herself or for any other person, shall be fined not less than \$100 nor more than 4 \$500 or imprisoned not more than 90 days, or both; and each such false statement 5 or representation constitutes a separate offense. This penalty is in addition to any 6 penalty imposed under s. 108.04 (11) (bh). History: 1973 c. 247; 1983 a. 8; 1991 a. 89; 2005 a. 86; 2009 a. 28, 287, 288. **SECTION 11.** 108.16 (6) (n) of the statutes is created to read:

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108.16 (6) (n) Any penalty collected under s. 108.04 (11) (bh).

SECTION 12. Initial applicability.

lang (1) The treatment of sections 108.04 (11) (bh), 108.09 (2) (b) (and (8) (b), 108.16

(6) (n), 108.22 (8) (bh), 108.225 (1) (b), (16) (am) 1. (intro.), and (17) and 108.24 (1)

12 of the statutes first applies with respect to weeks of employment beginning with the

first Sunday that follows the 180th day beginning after the effective date of this

14 subsection.

> (2) The treatment of section 108.04 (2) (ae) of the statutes first applies with respect to weeks of unemployment beginning on the effective date of this subsection.

Section 13. Effective date.

(1) This act takes effect on the first Sunday after publication.

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25.17 (1) (xf) Unemployment program integrity fund (s. 108.19 (1s));

SECTION 7. 108.04 (2) (a) 3. (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

108.04 (2) (a) 3. (intro.) The individual conducts a reasonable search for suitable work during that week, unless the search requirement is waived under par.

(b). The search for suitable work must include 2 actions that constitute a reasonable search as prescribed by rule of the department. This subdivision does not apply to an individual if the department determines that the individual is currently laid off from employment with an employer but there is a reasonable expectation of reemployment of the individual by that employer. In determining whether the individual has a reasonable expectation of reemployment by an employer, the department shall request the employer to verify the individual's employment status and shall also consider other factors, including:

**Section 8.** 108.04 (2) (bm) of the statutes is created to read:

108.04 (2) (bm) A claimant is ineligible to receive benefits for any week for which there is a determination that the claimant failed to conduct a reasonable search for suitable work and the department has not waived the search requirement under par. (b). If the department has paid benefits to a claimant for any such week, the department may recover the overpayment under s. 108.22 (8).

**SECTION 9.** 108.04 (8) (b) of the statutes, as created by 2011 Wisconsin Act 32,

s repealed.

**Section 10.** 108.04 (11) (a) and (b) of the statutes are amended to read:

108.04 (11) (a) If a claimant, in filing his or her application for benefits or claim for any week, conceals any material fact relating to his or her eligibility for benefits, the claimant shall forfeit benefits in accordance with is ineligible for benefits as provided in par. (be).



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(b) If a claimant, in filing a claim for any week, conceals any of his or her wages earned in or paid or payable for that week, the claimant shall forfeit benefits in accordance with par. (be). In addition, the claimant shall be denied benefits for that week is ineligible for benefits as provided in par. (be).

**Section 11.** 108.04 (11) (be) of the statutes is repealed and recreated to read: 108.04 (11) (be) A claimant is ineligible for benefits for acts of concealment described in pars. (a) and (b) as follows:

- 1. For each single act of concealment occurring before the date of the first determination of concealment under par. (a) or (b), the claimant is ineligible for benefits for which he or she would otherwise be eligible in an amount equivalent to 2 times the claimant's weekly benefit rate under s. 108.05 (1) for the week in which the claim is made.
- 2. For each single act of concealment occurring after the date of the first determination of concealment under par. (a) or (b), the claimant is ineligible for benefits for which he or she would otherwise be eligible in an amount equivalent to 4 times the claimant's weekly benefit rate under s. 108.05 (1) for the week in which the claim is made.
- 3. For each single act of concealment occurring after the date of a 2nd or subsequent determination of concealment under par. (a) or (b), the claimant is ineligible for benefits for which he or she would otherwise be eligible in an amount equivalent to 8 times the claimant's weekly benefit rate under s. 108.05 (1) for the week in which the claim is made.

**SECTION 12.** 108.04 (11) (bh) of the statutes is created to read:

108.04 (11) (bh) In addition to ineligibility for benefits resulting from concealment as provided in par. (be), the department shall assess a penalty against

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the claimant in an amount equal to 15 percent of the benefit payments paid to the claimant as a result of one or more acts of concealment described in pars. (a) and (b).

**Section 13.** 108.04 (11) (bm) of the statutes is amended to read:

108.04 (11) (bm) The forfeiture established The department shall apply any ineligibility under par. (be) may be applied against benefits and weeks of eligibility for which the claimant would otherwise become payable to the claimant for weeks of unemployment occurring be eligible after the week of concealment and within 6 years after the date of an initial determination issued under s. 108.09 finding that a concealment occurred. The claimant shall not receive waiting period credit under s. 108.04 (3) for the period of ineligibility applied under par. (be). If no benefit rate applies to the week for which the claim is made, the department shall use the claimant's benefit rate for the claimant's next benefit year beginning after the week of concealment to determine the forfeiture amount. If the benefits forfeited would otherwise be chargeable to an employer's account, the department shall charge the amount of benefits forfeited to the employer's account and shall credit the fund's balancing account for that amount of the benefit reduction.

SECTION 14. 108.04 (13) (cm) of the statutes, as created by 2011 Wisconsin Act 32, is repealed.

**SECTION 15.** 108.05 (3) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

108.05 (3) (a) Except as provided in pars. (b), (c), and (d), and (dm) if an eligible employee earns wages in a given week, the first \$30 of the wages shall be disregarded and the employee's applicable weekly benefit payment shall be reduced by 67% of the remaining amount, except that no such employee is eligible for benefits if the employee's benefit payment would be less than \$5 for any week. For purposes of this paragraph, "wages" includes any salary reduction amounts earned that are not

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- 1. Benefits directly or indirectly from the services performed by the employee.
- 2. Maintains a pool of workers who are available to perform the services in question.
- 3. Is responsible for employee compliance with applicable regulatory laws and for enforcement of such compliance.
- **SECTION 22.** 108.065 (1m) and (2) of the statutes are renumbered 108.065 (2) (b) and (c).
  - **SECTION 23.** 108.065 (3) of the startutes is created to read:
- 108.065 (3) A provider of home health care and personal care services for medical assistance recipients under ch. 49 may elect to be the employer of one or more employees providing those services. As a condition of eligibility for election to be the employer of one or more employees providing those services, the provider shall notify in writing the recipient of any such services of its election, for purposes of the unemployment insurance law, to be the employer of any worker providing such services to the recipient, and must be treated as the employer by the federal internal revenue service for purposes of federal unemployment taxes on the worker's services.
  - **SECTION 24.** 108.09 (2) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:
- 108.09 (2) (b) The department shall issue determinations whenever necessary to resolve any matters which that may bar, suspend, terminate or otherwise affect the employee's eligibility for benefits or to resolve any liability for penalties under s. 108.04 (11) (bh).
  - **Section 25.** 108.09 (3) (a) 1. of the statutes is amended to read:
- 108.09 (3) (a) 1. To hear and decide disputed claims <u>or to resolve liabilities</u> <u>under sub. (2) (b)</u>, the department shall establish appeal tribunals. Except as

authorized in this paragraph, each tribunal shall consist of an individual who is a permanent employee of the department.

SECTION 26. 108.09 (4r) of the statutes, as created by 2011 Wisconsin Act 32, is repealed.

**Section 27.** 108.09 (8) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

108.09 (8) (b) Any party in a dispute concerning benefit eligibility or liability for overpayment of benefits or a penalty imposed under s. 108.04 (11) (bh), or in any administrative proceeding under this chapter concerning such a dispute, may be represented by counsel or another agent; but no such counsel or agent may together charge or receive from an employee for all such representation in connection with such a dispute a fee which, in the aggregate, exceeds 10% of the maximum benefits at issue unless the department has first approved a specified higher fee. This paragraph does not apply to any fee charged for representation before a court of law.

**Section 28.** 108.16 (6) (f) of the statutes is amended to read:

108.16 **(6) (f)** Any amount available for such crediting under s. 108.04 (11) (be), 108.14 (8n) (e) or 108.141.

**SECTION 29.** 108.16 (6) (L) of the statutes is amended to read:

108.16 (6) (L) The amount of any overpayments that are recovered by the department by setoff pursuant to s. 71.93 or the amount of any overpayments resulting from fraud or failure to report earnings that are recovered by the department by offset pursuant to section 6402 (f) of the federal Internal Revenue Code in effect on June 1, 2009, or a similar federal program.

SECTION 30. 108.16 (6) (m) of the statutes is amonded to read:

108.16 (6) (m) Any amounts collected from assessments levied under s. 108.19 (1m) exceeding the amounts needed to pay interest due on advances from the federa

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This bill provides that if the average rate of total unemployment in this state, as determined by the U.S. secretary of labor, is equal to or lower than 6.5 percent for any calendar quarter, DWD must publish a notice to that effect in the Wisconsin Administrative Register. Under the bill, no claimant may qualify to begin receiving extended training benefits in any week that begins after publication of the notice.

## Voluntary termination of employment

Currently, if an employee voluntarily terminates his or her work for an employer, the employee is generally ineligible to receive benefits until four weeks have elapsed since the end of the week in which the termination occurs and the employee earns wages after the week in which the termination occurs equal to at least four times the employee's weekly benefit rate in employment covered by the unemployment insurance law of any state or the federal government. However, an employee may terminate his or her work and receive benefits without requalifying under this provision, among other reasons, if an employee's spouse changed his or her place of employment to a place to which it is impractical to commute and the employee terminated his or her work to accompany the spouse to that place. This bill deletes this exception to the requalification requirement.

Interest on delinquent payments

the Department of Workforce Development

Currently, if an employer does not make a payment required under the UI law to DWD) by the due date, the employer must pay interest on the amount owed equal to one percent per month or fraction thereof from the date that the payment became due. This bill changes the interest rate on delinquent payments to that monthly rate that annoualized is equal to 2 percent more than the prime rate as published in the Wall Street Journal as of September 30 of the preceding year for each month or fraction thereof that the employer is delinquent.

Payment of benefits during incarceration

Currently, with certain exceptions, an employee is eligible to receive benefits for any week in which the employee receives no wages only if the employee is able to work and available for work during that week. If an employee is incarcerated for an offense that constitutes misconduct connected with his or her employment, the employee is ineligible to receive benefits until the employee requalifies, and any wages earned with the discharging employer are discounted in determining the employee's benefit amount. This bill provides, in addition, that an employee's weekly benefit amount is reduced by one-fifth for each day of any week in which the employee is incarcerated for up to 5 days in a week.

Authority of appeal tribunals

Currently, DWD is directed by law to appoint appeal tribunals to administratively hear and decide disputed UI claims and other matters arising under the UI law. This bill provides that the actions of appeal tribunals must be consistent with applicable state and federal law.

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108.06 (1) Except as provided in subs. (6) and (7) and ss. 108.141 and 108.142, no claimant may receive total benefits based on employment in a base period greater than 26 times the claimant's weekly benefit rate under s. 108.05 (1) or 40% of the claimant's base period wages, whichever is lower. Except as provided in subs. (6) and (7) and ss. 108.141 and 108.142, if a claimant's base period wages are reduced or canceled under s. 108.04 (1) (j) or (5) or (18), or suspended under s. 108.04 (1) (f), (10) (a), or (17), the claimant may not receive total benefits based on employment in a base period greater than 26 times the claimant's weekly benefit rate under s. 108.05 (1) or 40% of the base period wages not reduced, carceled or suspended which were paid of payable to the claimant, whichever is lower.

**Section 8.** 108.06 (7) (b) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

108.06 (7) (b) (intro.) Except as provided in pars. (f) and, (g), and (k), a claimant who is otherwise eligible for benefits and who is currently enrolled in a training program is eligible, while enrolled in that training program, for additional benefits under this subsection provided that the claimant:

**Section 9.** 108.06 (7) (k) of the statutes is created to read:

108.06 (7) (k) If the average rate of total unemployment in this state, seasonally adjusted, as determined by the U.S. secretary of labor, for any calendar quarter, is equal to or lower than 6.5 percent, the department shall publish a notice to that effect in the Wisconsin administrative register. No claimant may qualify to begin receiving benefits under par. (b) in any week beginning after the department publishes a notice under this paragraph.

**SECTION 108.09** (3) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

108.09 **(3)** (b) The Consistently with applicable state and federal law, the appeal tribunal may affirm, reverse or modify the initial determination of the

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department or set aside the determination and remand the matter to the department for further proceedings, or may remand to the department for consideration of any issue not previously investigated by the department.

SECTION 11. 108.14 (8n) (e) of the statutes is amended to read:

108.14 **(8n)** (e) The department shall charge this state's share of any benefits paid under this subsection to the account of each employer by which the employee claiming benefits was employed in the applicable base period, in proportion to the total amount of wages he or she earned from each employer in the base period, except that if s. 108.04 (1) (f), (5), (7) (a), (c), (d), (e), (k), (L), (o), (p), (q), or (s), or (t), (7m) or (8) (a) or 108.07 (3), (3f), (5) (b) or (8) would have applied to employment by such an employer who is subject to the contribution requirements of ss. 108.17 and 108.18, the department shall charge the share of benefits based on employment with that employer to the fund's balancing account, or, if s. 108.04 (1) (f) or (5) or 108.07 (3) would have applied to an employer that is not subject to the contribution requirements of ss. 108.17 and 108.18, the department shall charge the share of benefits based on that employment in accordance with s. 108.07 (5) (a) and (b). The department shall also charge the fund's balancing account with any other state's share of such benefits pending reimbursement by that state.

**SECTION 12.** 108.141 (3g) (d) of the statutes is amended to read:

108.141 (3g) (d) Notwithstanding s. 108.04 (6) and (7), a claimant who was disqualified from receipt of benefits because of voluntarily terminating employment or incurring a disciplinary suspension for good cause being discharged for or incurring a disciplinary suspension for intentional conduct or for a knowing violation of a work rule or policy under s. 108.04 (6) (a) is ineligible to receive extended benefits for the week in which the termination occurs or the suspension begins and for each

week thereafter until he or she has again been employed during at least A subsequent
weeks in employment or other work covered by the unemployment insurance law of
any state or the federal government and earned wages for such work equal to at least
4 times his or her weekly extended benefit rate.

Section 13, 108.141 (7) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

108.141 (7) (a) The department shall charge the state's share of each week of extended benefits to each employer's account in proportion to the employer's share of the total wages of the employee receiving the benefits in the employee's base period, except that if the employer is subject to the contribution requirements of ss. 108.17 and 108.18 the department shall charge the share of extended benefits to which s. 108.04 (1) (f) (5), (7) (a), (c), (d), (e), (k), (L), (o), (p), (q), or (s), or (t), (7m) or (8) (a) or 108.07 (3), (3r), (5) (b) or (8) applies to the fund's balancing account.

SECTION 14. 108.16 (6m) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

108.16 **(6m)** (a) The benefits thus chargeable under s. 108.04 (1) (f), (5), (5g), (7) (h), (8) (a), (13) (c) or (d) or (16) (e), 108.07 (3), (3r), (5) (b), (5m), (6), or (8), 108.14 (8n) (e), 108.141, 108.151, or 108.152 or sub. (6) (e) or (7) (a) and (b).

**SECTION** 108.22 (1) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

108.22 (1) (a) If any employer, other than an employer which has ceased business and has not paid or incurred a liability to pay wages in any quarter following the cessation of business, is delinquent in making by the assigned due date any payment to the department required of it under this chapter, the employer shall pay interest on the delinquent payment at the rate of one percent per that monthly rate that annualized is equal to 2 percent more than the prime rate as published in the Wall Street Journal as of September 30 of the preceding year for each month or fraction thereof that the employer is delinquent from the date such payment became



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due. If any such employer is delinquent in making any quarterly report under s. 108.205 (1) by the assigned due date, the employer shall pay a tardy filing fee of \$50 for each delinquent quarterly report.

## Section 16. Initial applicability.

- (1) The treatment of sections 108.04 (5), (5g), and (6), 108.141 (3g) (d), and 108.16 (6m) (a) of the statutes first applies with respect to discharges and suspensions occurring on the first Sunday that follows the 90th day beginning after the effective date of this subsection.
- (2) The treatment of sections 108.06 (7) (b) (intro.) and (k) of the statutes first applies with respect to weeks of unemployment beginning on the effective date of this subsection.
- (3) The treatment of sections 108.04 (1) (j) and 108.06 (t) of the statutes first applies with respect to weeks of unemployment beginning after the effective date of this subsection.
- (4) The treatment of sections 108.04 (7) (h) and (t), 108.14 (8n) (e), and 108.141 (7) (a) of the statutes first applies with respect to terminations of employment occurring after the effective date of this subsection.
- (5) The treatment of section 108.22 (1) (a) of the statutes first applies with respect to liabilities incurred for the first quarter beginning

#### Section 17. Effective date.

(1) This act takes effect on the first Sunday after publication.

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## State of Wisconsin **2011 - 2012 LEGISLATURE**



Draft delivered from LRO toDWD

2011 BILL

Monday January 30, 2012 (NOW)

Markup by Dan La Rocque for review by LRB:

AN ACT to amend 108.04 (11) (a) and (b), 108.04 (11) (bm), 108.09 (2) (b), 108.09 (3) (a) 1., 108.09 (3) (a) 2., 108.09 (3) (b), 108.09 (8) (b), 108.16 (6) (f), 108.22 (1) (a), 108.225 (1) (b), 108.225 (16) (am) 1. (intro.), 108.225 (17) and 108.24 (1); to repeal and recreate 108.04 (11) (be); and to create 108.04 (2) (ae), 108.04 (11) (bh), 108.16 (6) (n) and 108.22 (8) (bh) of the statutes; **relating to:** concealment of benefit claim information, availability for work, interest on delinquent payments, and the composition and authority of appeal tribunals under the unemployment insurance law.

## Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill makes changes in concealment of benefit claim information, the requirement to maintain availability for work, interest on delinquent payments, and the composition and authority of appeal tribunals under the unemployment insurance (UI) law.

#### Concealment of benefit claim information

Currently, if a claimant conceals any material fact relating to his or her eligibility for UI benefits or conceals any wages earned in or paid or payable for a given week, the claimant is subject to graduated monetary penalties that increase in severity with the number of determinations of concealment by the claimant. In **BILL** 

addition, if a claimant conceals any wages for a given week, the claimant is ineligible to receive any benefits for that week.

This bill provides instead that a claimant who conceals any material fact relating to his or her eligibility for UI benefits or conceals any wages is subject to a graduated forfeiture of benefit amounts equivalent to specified weeks of benefit eligibility that increases in severity with the number of determinations of concealment by the claimant. In addition, a claimant who is found guilty of concealment is subject to a penalty equal to 15 percent of the benefit payments erroneously paid to the claimant as a result of any acts of concealment. Under the bill, revenues collected from the penalties are deposited in the unemployment reserve fund, which is used to pay benefits.

#### Availability for work

Currently, with certain exceptions, a claimant is eligible for UI benefits for any week in which the claimant earns no wages only if the claimant is available for work during that week. This bill provides specifically that a claimant is not considered to be available for work in any week in which he or she is in a country other than the United States or Canada for more than 48 hours unless the claimant has authorization to work in that other country and there is a reciprocal agreement concerning the payment of benefits between that other country and the United States.

#### Interest on delinquent payments

Currently, if an employer does not make a payment required under the UI law to the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) by the due date, the employer must pay interest on the amount owed equal to one percent per month or fraction thereof from the date that the payment became due. This bill changes the interest rate on delinquent payments to that monthly rate that annualized is equal to 2 percent more than the prime rate as published in the Wall Street Journal as of September 30 of the preceding year for each month or fraction thereof that the employer is delinquent.

## Composition and authority of appeal tribunals

Currently, DWD is directed by law to appoint appeal tribunals to administratively hear and decide disputed UI claims and other matters arising under the UI law. An individual who is appointed to serve as an appeal tribunal must be a permanent employee of DWD except that DWD may appoint a person to serve as a temporary appeal tribunal if the individual was formerly appointed to serve as a tribunal while employed by DWD and retired from state service as a permanent employee. This bill permits DWD to appoint any attorney who is licensed to practice in this state to serve as a temporary appeal tribunal. The bill also provides that the actions of appeal tribunals must be consistent with applicable state and federal law.

For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

# The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

**SECTION 1.** 108.04 (2) (ae) of the statutes is created to read:

108.04 (2) (ae) A claimant is not available for work under par. (a) 1. in any week in which he or she is located in a country other than the United States, as defined in s. 108.02 (15) (do) 2., or Canada for more than 48 hours unless the claimant has authorization to work in that other country and there is a reciprocal agreement concerning the payment of unemployment insurance benefits between that other country and the United States.

**SECTION 2.** 108.04 (11) (a) and (b) of the statutes are amended to read:

108.04 (11) (a) If a claimant, in filing his or her application for benefits or claim for any week, conceals any material fact relating to his or her eligibility for benefits, the claimant shall forfeit benefits in accordance with is ineligible for benefits as provided in par. (be).

(b) If a claimant, in filing a claim for any week, conceals any of his or her wages earned in or paid or payable for that week, the claimant shall forfeit benefits in accordance with par. (be). In addition, the claimant shall be denied benefits for that week is ineligible for benefits as provided in par. (be).

SECTION 3. 108.04 (11) (be) of the statutes is repealed and recreated to read:

108.04 (11) (be) A claimant is ineligible for benefits for acts of concealment described in pars. (a) and (b) as follows:

1. For each single act of concealment occurring before the date of the first determination of concealment under par. (a) or (b), the claimant is ineligible for

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benefits for which he or she would otherwise be eligible in an amount equivalent to 2 times the claimant's weekly benefit rate under s. 108.05 (1) for the week in which the claim is made.

- 2. For each single act of concealment occurring after the date of the first determination of concealment under par. (a) or (b), the claimant is ineligible for benefits for which he or she would otherwise be eligible in an amount equivalent to 4 times the claimant's weekly benefit rate under s. 108.05 (1) for the week in which the claim is made.
- 3. For each single act of concealment occurring after the date of a 2nd or subsequent determination of concealment under par. (a) or (b), the claimant is ineligible for benefits for which he or she would otherwise be eligible in an amount equivalent to 8 times the claimant's weekly benefit rate under s. 108.05 (1) for the week in which the claim is made.

SECTION 4. 108.04 (11) (bh) of the statutes is created to read:

108.04 (11) (bh) In addition to ineligibility for benefits resulting from concealment as provided in par. (be), the department shall assess a penalty against the claimant in an amount equal to 15 percent of the benefit payments erroneously paid to the claimant as a result of one or more acts of concealment described in pars. (a) and (b).

**Section 5.** 108.04 (11) (bm) of the statutes is amended to read:

108.04 (11) (bm) The forfeiture established The department shall apply any ineligibility under par. (be) may be applied against benefits and weeks of eligibility for which the claimant would otherwise become payable to the claimant for weeks of unemployment occurring be eligible after the week of concealment and within 6 years after the date of an initial determination issued under s. 108.09 finding that

a concealment occurred. The claimant shall not receive waiting period credit under s. 108.04 (3) for the period of ineligibility applied under par. (be). If no benefit rate applies to the week for which the claim is made, the department shall use the claimant's benefit rate for the claimant's next benefit year beginning after the week of concealment to determine the forfeiture amount. If the benefits forfeited would otherwise be chargeable to an employer's account, the department shall charge the amount of benefits forfeited to the employer's account and shall credit the fund's balancing account for that amount of the benefit reduction.

SECTION 6. 108.09 (2) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

108.09 (2) (b) The department shall issue determinations whenever necessary to resolve any matters which that may bar, suspend, terminate or otherwise affect the employee's eligibility for benefits or to resolve any liability for penalties under s. 108.04 (11) (bh).

SECTION 7. 108.09 (3) (a) 1. of the statutes is amended to read:

108.09 (3) (a) 1. To hear and decide disputed claims or to resolve liabilities under sub. (2) (b), the department shall establish appeal tribunals. Except as authorized in this paragraph, each tribunal shall consist of an individual who is a permanent employee of the department.

SECTION, 8. 108.09 (3) (a) 2. of the statutes is amended to read:

108.09 (3) (a) 2. The department may appoint an individual who is not a permanent employee of the department to serve as a temporary reserve appeal tribunal if the individual formerly served as an appeal tribunal while employed by the department and retired from state service as a permanent employee. An individual who is appointed to serve as a temporary reserve appeal tribunal shall be an attorney who is licensed to practice in this state.

Section, 9. 108.09 (3) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

108.09 (3) (b) The Consistently with applicable state and federal law, the appeal tribunal may affirm, reverse or modify the initial determination of the department or set aside the determination and remand the matter to the department for further proceedings, or may remand to the department for consideration of any issue not previously investigated by the department.

**SECTION 10.** 108.09 (8) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

108.09 **(8)** (b) Any party in a dispute concerning benefit eligibility or liability for overpayment of benefits <u>or a penalty imposed under s. 108.04 (11) (bh)</u>, or in any administrative proceeding under this chapter concerning such a dispute, may be represented by counsel or another agent; but no such counsel or agent may together charge or receive from an employee for all such representation in connection with such a dispute a fee which, in the aggregate, exceeds 10% of the maximum benefits at issue unless the department has first approved a specified higher fee. This paragraph does not apply to any fee charged for representation before a court of law.

**SECTION 11.** 108.16 (6) (f) of the statutes is amended to read:

108.16 (6) (f) Any amount available for such crediting under s. 108.04 (11) (be),

108.14 (8n) (e) or 108.141.

SECTION 12. 108.16 (6) (n) of the statutes is created to read:

108.16 (6) (n) Any penalty collected under s. 108.04 (11) (bh).

SECTION 13. 108.22 (1) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

108.22 (1) (a) If any employer, other than an employer which has ceased business and has not paid or incurred a liability to pay wages in any quarter following the cessation of business, is delinquent in making by the assigned due date any payment to the department required of it under this chapter, the employer shall

	BILL
1	pay interest on the delinquent payment at the rate of one percent per that monthly
2	rate that annualized is equal to 2 percent more than the prime rate as published in
3	the Wall Street Journal as of September 30 of the preceding year for each month or
4	fraction thereof that the employer is delinquent from the date such payment became
5	due. If any such employer is delinquent in making any quarterly report under s.
6	108.205 (1) by the assigned due date, the employer shall pay a tardy filing fee of \$50
7	for each delinquent quarterly report.
8	SECTION 14. 108.22 (8) (bh) of the statutes is created to read:
9	108.22 (8) (bh) To recover any penalty under s. 108.04 (11) (bh), the department
10	may recoup the amount of the penalty by filing a warrant against a liable individual
11	in the same manner as is provided in this section for collecting delinquent payments
12	from employers.
13	Section 15. 108.225 (1) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:
14	108.225 (1) (b) "Debt" means a delinquent contribution or repayment of a
15	benefit overpayment, an assessment under s. 108.04 (11) (cm) or 108.19 (1m). a
16	liability incurred under s. 108.04 (11) (bh), or any liability of a 3rd party for failure
17	to surrender to the department property or rights to property subject to levy after
18	proceedings under sub. (4) (b) and s. 108.10 to determine that liability.
19	SECTION 16. 108.225 (16) (am) 1. (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:
20	108.225 (16) (am) 1. (intro.) In the case of benefit overpayments or a penalty
21	imposed under s. 108.04 (11) (bh), an individual debtor is entitled to an exemption
22	from levy of 80% of the debtor's disposable earnings, except that:
23	SECTION 17. 108.225 (17) of the statutes is amended to read:

108.225 (17) Exemptions. The first \$1,000 of an account in a depository 24 institution is exempt from any levy to recover a benefit overpayment or penalty 25

imposed under s. 108.04 (11) (bh).	No other property is exempt from levy e	xcept as
provided in sub. (16).		

**SECTION 18.** 108.24 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

108.24 (1) Any person who knowingly makes a false statement or representation to obtain any benefit payment under this chapter, either for himself or herself or for any other person, shall be fined not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 or imprisoned not more than 90 days, or both; and each such false statement or representation constitutes a separate offense. This penalty is in addition to any penalty imposed under s. 108.04 (11) (bh).

SECTION 19. Initial applicability.

(1) The treatment of sections 108.04 (11) (a), (b), (be), (bh), (and (bm), 108.09 (2) (b), (3) (a) 1., and (8) (b), 108.16 (6) (f) and (n), 108.22 (8) (bh), 108.225 (1) (b), (16) (am) 1. (intro.), and (17) and 108.24 (1) of the statutes first applies with respect to weeks of employment beginning with the first Sunday that follows the 180th day beginning after the effective date of this subsection.

- (2) The treatment of section 108.04 (2) (ae) of the statutes first applies with respect to weeks of unemployment beginning on the effective date of this subsection.
- (3) The treatment of section 108.22 (1) (a) of the statutes first applies with respect to liabilities incurred for the first quarter beginning after the effective date of this subsection.

SECTION 20. Effective date.

(1) This act takes effect on the first Sunday after publication.

#### Kuesel, Jeffery

From:

LaRocque, Daniel J - DWD [Daniel.LaRocque@dwd.wisconsin.gov]

Sent:

Monday, January 30, 2012 5:02 PM

To:

Kuesel, Jeffery

Subject:

Initial applicability of 15% penalty and related sections

Importance:

High

Jeff:

The 2011 federal legislation provides that the penalty for fraudulently obtained benefits must take effect *for overpayments* established after October 21 2013.

UIPL 02-12 (dated December 20, 2011) states:

C. Effective Date: The penalties required under section 303(a)(11), SSA, as amended by the TAAEA, are mandatory for any fraudulent payments established after the end of the two-year period that begins on the date of enactment. That is, a penalty of at least 15 percent must be assessed on any fraudulent overpayment established after

October 21, 2013. However, states may opt to apply the penalty to fraudulent payments established earlier than this date.

Consequently, I would suggest that the initial applicability be based *not on weeks of unemployment* after October 21, 2013, but rather as follows:

The treatment of sections 108.04(11)(bh) . . . first applies with respect to overpayments established by the department beginning with October 22, 2013.

Dan

Daniel J. LaRocque
Director, Bureau of Legal Affairs
Unemployment Insurance Division
Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development
201 E. Washington Avenue
Madison, Wisconsin 53708-8942
(608) 267 1406 (direct)
(608) 266 8221 (fax)
Daniel.LaRocque@dwd.wisconsin.gov



# State of Misconsin 2011 - 2012 LEGISLATURE

TUE /31 9 Am if pssible



# **2011 BILL**

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(regenerate)

AN ACT to amend 108.04 (11) (a) and (b), 108.04 (11) (bm), 108.09 (2) (b), 108.09

(3) (a) 1., 108.09 (3) (a) 2., 108.09 (3) (b), 108.09 (8) (b), 108.16 (6) (f), 108.22 (1)

(a), 108.225 (1) (b), 108.225 (16) (am) 1. (intro.), 108.225 (17) and 108.24 (1); to

repeal and recreate 108.04 (11) (be); and to create 108.04 (2) (ae), 108.04 (11)

(bh), 108.16 (6) (n) and 108.22 (8) (bh) of the statutes; relating to: concealment of benefit claim information, availability for work, interest on delinquent payments, and the composition and authority of appeal tribunals under the unemployment insurance law.

8 unemployment ins

# Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill makes changes in concealment of benefit claim information, the requirement to maintain availability for work, interest on delinquent payments, and the composition and authority of appeal tribunals under the unemployment insurance (UI) law.

# Concealment of benefit claim information

Currently, if a claimant conceals any material fact relating to his or her eligibility for UI benefits or conceals any wages earned in or paid or payable for a given week, the claimant is subject to graduated monetary penalties that increase in severity with the number of determinations of concealment by the claimant. In

addition, if a claimant conceals any wages for a given week, the claimant is ineligible to receive any benefits for that week.

This bill provides instead that claimant who conceals any material fact relating to his or her eligibility for UI benefits or conceals any wages is subject to a graduated forfeiture of benefit amounts equivalent to specified weeks of benefit eligibility that increases in severity with the number of determinations of concealment by the claimant. In addition a claimant who is found guilty of concealment is subject to a penalty equal to 15 percent of the benefit payments erroneously paid to the claimant as a result of any acts of concealment. Under the bill, revenues collected from the penalties are deposited in the unemployment reserve fund, which is used to pay benefits.

## Availability for work

Currently, with certain exceptions, a claimant is eligible for UI benefits for any week in which the claimant earns no wages only if the claimant is available for work during that week. This bill provides specifically that a claimant is not considered to be available for work in any week in which he or she is in a country other than the United States or Canada for more than 48 hours unless the claimant has authorization to work in that other country and there is a reciprocal agreement concerning the payment of benefits between that other country and the United States.

## Interest on delinquent payments

Currently, if an employer does not make a payment required under the UI law to the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) by the due date, the employer must pay interest on the amount owed equal to one percent per month or fraction thereof from the date that the payment became due. This bill changes the interest rate on delinquent payments to that monthly rate that annualized is equal to 2 percent more than the prime rate as published in the Wall Street Journal as of September 30 of the preceding year for each month or fraction thereof that the employer is delinquent.

## Composition and authority of appeal tribunals

Currently, DWD is directed by law to appoint appeal tribunals to administratively hear and decide disputed UI claims and other matters arising under the UI law. An individual who is appointed to serve as an appeal tribunal must be a permanent employee of DWD except that DWD may appoint a person to serve as a temporary appeal tribunal if the individual was formerly appointed to serve as a tribunal while employed by DWD and retired from state service as a permanent employee. This bill permits DWD to appoint any attorney who is licensed to practice in this state to serve as a temporary appeal tribunal. The bill also provides that the actions of appeal tribunals must be consistent with applicable state and federal law.

For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

# The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

**SECTION 1.** 108.04 (2) (ae) of the statutes is created to read:

108.04 (2) (ae) A claimant is not available for work under par. (a) 1. in any week in which he or she is located in a country other than the United States, as defined in s. 108.02 (15) (do) 2., or Canada for more than 48 hours unless the claimant has authorization to work in that other country and there is a reciprocal agreement concerning the payment of unemployment insurance benefits between that other country and the United States.

SECTION 2. 108.04 (11) (a) and (b) of the statutes are amended to read:

108.04 (11) (a) If a claimant, in filing his or ber application for benefits or claim for any week, conceals any material fact relating to his or her eligibility for benefits, the claimant shall forfeit benefits in accordance with is ineligible for benefits as provided in par. (be).

(b) If a claimant, in filing a claim for any week, conceals any of his or her wages earned in or paid or payable for that week, the claimant shall forfeit benefits in accordance with par. (be). In addition, the claimant shall be denied benefits for that week is incligible for benefits as provided in par. (be).

SECTION 3. 108.04 (11) (be) of the statutes is repealed and recreated to read 108.04 (11) (be) A claimant is ineligible for benefits for acts of concealment described in pars. (a) and (b) as follows:

1. For each single act of concealment occurring before the date of the first determination of concealment under par. (a) or (b), the claimant is ineligible for

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1	benefits for which he or she would or	therwise be eligible in an amount equivalent to
2	2 times the claimant's weekly benefit	t rate under s. 108.05 (1) for the week in which
3	the claim is made.	

- 2. For each single act of concealment occurring after the date of the first determination of concealment under par. (a) or (b), the claimant is ineligible for benefits for which he or she would otherwise be eligible in an amount equivalent to 4 times the claimant's weekly benefit rate under s. 108.05 (1) for the week in which the claim is made.
- 3. For each single act of concealment occurring after the date of a 2nd or subsequent determination of concealment under par. (a) or (b), the claimant is ineligible for benefits for which he or she would otherwise be eligible in an amount equivalent to 8 times the claimant's weekly benefit rate under s. 108.05 (1) for the week in which the claim is made

SECTION 4. 108.04 (11) (bh) of the statutes is created to read:

108.04 (11) (bh) In addition to ineligibility for benefits resulting from concealment as provided in par. (be), the department shall assess a penalty against the claimant in an amount equal to 15 percent of the benefit payments erroneously paid to the claimant as a result of one or more acts of concealment described in pars.

(a) and (b).

SECTION 5. 108.04 (11) (bm) of the statutes is amended to read:

108.04 (11) (bm) The forfeiture established The department shall apply any ineligibility under par. (be) may be applied against benefits and weeks of eligibility for which the claimant would otherwise become payable to the claimant for weeks of unemployment occurring be eligible after the week of concealment and within 6 years after the date of an initial determination issued under s. 108.09 finding that

a concealment occurred. The claimant shall not receive waiting period credit under
s. 108.04 (3) for the period of ineligibility applied under par. (be). If no benefit rate
applies to the week for which the claim is made, the department shall use the
claimant's benefit rate for the claimant's next benefit year beginning after the week
of concealment to determine the forfeiture amount. If the benefits forfeited would
otherwise be chargeable to an employer's account, the department shall charge the
amount of benefits forfeited to the employer's account and shall credit the funds
balancing account for that amount of the benefit reduction.

**SECTION 6.** 108.09 (2) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

108.09 (2) (b) The department shall issue determinations whenever necessary to resolve any matters which that may bar, suspend, terminate or otherwise affect the employee's eligibility for benefits or to resolve any liability for penalties under s. 108.04 (11) (bh).

**Section 7.** 108.09 (3) (a) 1. of the statutes is amended to read:

108.09 (3) (a) 1. To hear and decide disputed claims or to resolve liabilities under sub. (2) (b), the department shall establish appeal tribunals. Except as authorized in this paragraph, each tribunal shall consist of an individual who is a permanent employee of the department.

**Section 8.** 108.09 (3) (a) 2. of the statutes is amended to read:

108.09 (3) (a) 2. The department may appoint an individual who is not a permanent employee of the department to serve as a temporary reserve appeal tribunal if the individual formerly served as an appeal tribunal while employed by the department and retired from state service as a permanent employee. An individual who is appointed to serve as a temporary reserve appeal tribunal shall be an attorney who is licensed to practice in this state.

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**SECTION 9.** 108.09 (3) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

108.09 (3) (b) The Consistently with applicable state and federal law, the appeal tribunal may affirm, reverse or modify the initial determination of the department or set aside the determination and remand the matter to the department for further proceedings, or may remand to the department for consideration of any issue not previously investigated by the department.

**SECTION 10.** 108.09 (8) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

108.09 (8) (b) Any party in a dispute concerning benefit eligibility or liability for overpayment of benefits or a penalty imposed under s. 108.04 (11) (bh), or in any administrative proceeding under this chapter concerning such a dispute, may be represented by counsel or another agent; but no such counsel or agent may together charge or receive from an employee for all such representation in connection with such a dispute a fee which, in the aggregate, exceeds 10% of the maximum benefits at issue unless the department has first approved a specified higher fee. This paragraph does not apply to any fee charged for representation before a court of law.

Section 11. 108.16 (6) (f) of the statutes is amended to read.

108.16 (6) (1) Any amount available for such crediting under s. 108.04 (11) (be),

108.14 (8n) (e) or 108.141

**Section 12.** 108.16 (6) (n) of the statutes is created to read:

108.16 (6) (n) Any penalty collected under s. 108.04 (11) (bh).

**SECTION 13.** 108.22 (1) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

108.22 (1) (a) If any employer, other than an employer which has ceased business and has not paid or incurred a liability to pay wages in any quarter following the cessation of business, is delinquent in making by the assigned due date any payment to the department required of it under this chapter, the employer shall

1	pay interest on the delinquent payment at the rate of one percent per that monthly
2	rate that annualized is equal to 2 percent more than the prime rate as published in
(3)	the Wall Street Journal as of September 30 of the preceding year/for each month or
4	fraction thereof that the employer is delinquent from the date such payment became
5	due. If any such employer is delinquent in making any quarterly report under s.
6	108.205(1) by the assigned due date, the employer shall pay a tardy filing fee of \$50
7	for each delinquent quarterly report.
8	SECTION 14. 108.22 (8) (bh) of the statutes is created to read:
9	108.22 (8) (bh) To recover any penalty under s. $108.04$ (11) (bh), the department
10	may recoup the amount of the penalty by filing a warrant against a liable individual
11	in the same manner as is provided in this section for collecting delinquent payments
12	from employers.
13	<b>SECTION 15.</b> 108.225 (1) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:
14	108.225 (1) (b) "Debt" means a delinquent contribution or repayment of a
15	benefit overpayment, an assessment under s. 108.04 (11) (cm) or 108.19 (1m), a
16	liability incurred under s. 108.04 (11) (bh), or any liability of a 3rd party for failure
17	to surrender to the department property or rights to property subject to levy after
18	proceedings under sub. (4) (b) and s. 108.10 to determine that liability.
19	<b>SECTION 16.</b> 108.225 (16) (am) 1. (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:
20	108.225 (16) (am) 1. (intro.) In the case of benefit overpayments or a penalty
21	imposed under s. 108.04 (11) (bh), an individual debtor is entitled to an exemption
22	from levy of 80% of the debtor's disposable earnings, except that:
23	SECTION 17. 108.225 (17) of the statutes is amended to read:
24	108.225 (17) Exemptions. The first \$1,000 of an account in a depository
25	institution is exempt from any levy to recover a benefit overpayment or penalty

imposed under s. 108.04 (11) (bh). No other property is exempt from levy except as 1 provided in sub. (16). 2 **SECTION 18.** 108.24 (1) of the statutes is amended to read: 3 Any person who knowingly makes a false statement or 108.24 (1) 4 representation to obtain any benefit payment under this chapter, either for himself 5 or herself or for any other person, shall be fined not less than \$100 nor more than 6 \$500 or imprisoned not more than 90 days, or both; and each such false statement 7 or representation constitutes a separate offense. This penalty is in addition to any 8 penalty imposed under s. 108.04 (11) (bh). 9 SECTION 19. Initial applicability. 10 (1) The treatment of sections 108.04 (11) (a) (bh) and (bh), (b), (3) (a) 1., and (8) (b), 108.16 (6) (am) 121. (intro.), and (17) and 108.24 (1) of the statutes first applies with respect to 43of employment beginning with the first Sunday that follows the 180th day beginning 14 after the effective date of this subsection 15 (2) The treatment of section 108.04 (2) (ae) of the statutes first applies with 16 respect to weeks of unemployment beginning on the effective date of this subsection. 17 (3) The treatment of section 108.22 (1) (a) of the statutes first applies with 18 accrual of interest espect to liabilities incurred for the first quarter beginning after the effective date 19 of this subsection. 20 SECTION 20. Effective date. 21 (1) This act takes effect on the first Sunday after publication. 22 department of work force

department of work force

development after

october 21, 2013 ... 23

#### Barman, Mike

From:

Williams, Vincent

Sent:

Tuesday, January 31, 2012 9:52 AM

To:

Barman, Mike

Subject:

FW: UIAC agreed upon bill 2

Attachments: 11-39122.pdf

From: Barkelar, Craig D - DWD [mailto:Craig.Barkelar@dwd.wisconsin.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 9:35 AM
To: Williams, Vincent; Schulze, Connie R - DWD
Cc: Kelly, Scott; LaRocque, Daniel J - DWD
Subject: RE: UIAC agreed upon bill 2

The senate number is 3976

For jacketing, please call 6-3561 and tell the program assistants which draft is to be jacketed for which house and arrange with them to pick up the jackets or to have someone else do so on your behalf.

## Craig Barkelar

Administrator, Division of Unemployment Insurance Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development 201 East Washington Avenue, Room E300 Madison, WI 53703

Phone: (608) 266-8533 / Fax: (608) 266-0593

Craig.Barkelar@dwd.wisconsin.gov

# Wisconsin is Open for Business!

**CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE:** This transmission may contain confidential information protected by state and/or federal law. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution, or the taking of any action in reliance on the contents is strictly prohibited. If you have received this transmission in error, please notify the sender immediately to arrange for return, destruction or deletion of the transmission. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

From: Williams, Vincent [mailto:Vincent.Williams@legis.wisconsin.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 9:30 AM

**To:** Schulze, Connie R - DWD **Cc:** Barkelar, Craig D - DWD

Subject: RE: UIAC agreed upon bill 2

Do we have a draft yet?

Do you have an electronic copy....? I'm getting ready to send out my amended notice.

From: Schulze, Connie R - DWD [mailto:Connie.Schulze@dwd.wisconsin.gov]

Sent: Friday, January 27, 2012 2:03 PM

**To:** Williams, Vincent **Cc:** Barkelar, Craig D - DWD

Subject: RE: UIAC agreed upon bill 2

We don't have an LRB number yet.

I will ask Craig how close we are to getting that. He knows about the hearing Wed and is working to get things ready. But we had to give the UIAC time to weigh in on the proposed bill so you could stand before your members and say, "This has rec'd the UIAC blessing."

You must have it introduced by 9am Tuesday so you can notice it 24 hours before the hearing, correct?

#### Connie Schulze Legislative Liaison

Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development 201 E. Washington Avenue, A400

Madison, WI 53703

Ph: 608/266-1756 Fax: 608/266-1784 connie.schulze@dwd.wisconsin.gov

From: Williams, Vincent [mailto:Vincent.Williams@legis.wisconsin.gov]

Sent: Friday, January 27, 2012 1:46 PM

To: Schulze, Connie R - DWD; Kelly, Scott - LEGIS; Summerfield, Craig - LEGIS

Subject: RE: UIAC agreed upon bill 2

3 p.m. is the briefing, when are we going to see the bill?

Do we know the LRB #?

Are we going to add it to the agenda for Wednesday?

Craig, did you inform your members of your exec, so I can send out my notice?

From: Schulze, Connie R - DWD [mailto:Connie.Schulze@dwd.wisconsin.gov]

Sent: Friday, January 27, 2012 1:19 PM

To: Williams, Vincent; Kelly, Scott; Summerfield, Craig

Subject: RE: UIAC agreed upon bill 2

Does 3pm work for everyone tomorrow?

#### Connie Schulze Legislative Liaison

Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development 201 E. Washington Avenue, A400

Madison, WI 53703

Ph: 608/266-1756 Fax: 608/266-1784 connie.schulze@dwd.wisconsin.gov

From: Williams, Vincent [mailto:Vincent.Williams@legis.wisconsin.gov]

Sent: Friday, January 27, 2012 12:41 PM

To: Schulze, Connie R - DWD; Kelly, Scott - LEGIS; Summerfield, Craig - LEGIS

Subject: RE: UIAC agreed upon bill 2

It needs to be at 3 p.m. I have to leave at 4 p.m., I coach hockey on Monday nights.

From: Schulze, Connie R - DWD [mailto:Connie.Schulze@dwd.wisconsin.gov]

Sent: Friday, January 27, 2012 12:24 PM

To: Williams, Vincent; Kelly, Scott; Summerfield, Craig

Subject: UIAC agreed upon bill 2

Can Craig and I come over Monday between 3 and 5 and brief you on the new UIAC

bill?

Connie Schulze Legislative Liaison

Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development

201 E. Washington Avenue, A400

Madison, WI 53703

Ph: 608/266-1756 Fax: 608/266-1784 connie.schulze@dwd.wisconsin.gov